Projects by Battalion

Battalion 1

Battalion 1 spans from the Sacramento County line the USFS CDF DPA border. The total area off the battalion is 309,544 acres ranging from 14% timber, 33% brush, and 49% oak woodland/grass.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada's, the Battalion contains a significant wildland interface fire problem. There exist numerous large, and well populated, subdivisions which are at risk for a catastrophic fire.

The facilities in battalion 1 consist of two CDF Schedule B stations, Station 20 with two engines, and Station 43 with one engine and a dozer. In addition, the Unit headquarters and the Unit ECC are located within the battalion.

Seven local agency fire districts lie, at least partially, within the battalion. These fire districts are; Pioneer, El Dorado Hill, Cameron Park, Diamond Springs, Latrobe Fire, Rescue, and El Dorado County Fire. A close working relationship is maintained with each district as well as with the USFS.

Current Projects

1. Folsom Lake/El Dorado Hills Fire Safe Project

The proposed project includes the establishment of a defensible fuels zone at the boundary of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area and the private parcels that have homes with inadequate set-back. The intent is to provide defensible fuel zones that start at structures on private lands and extend approximately 100-300 feet into the Folsom State Recreation Area. The pre-fire strategy is to construct defensible fuels zones which provide adequate protection to fire personnel and residents in the event of wildfire originating within the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.

An additional component will be an emphasis on the continued property inspection program that is currently conducted by El Dorado Hills Fire Department. To enhance this program the cooperators will work towards community chipping programs to provide disposal alternatives for materials generated during clearance work around structures.

Currently CDF has submitted several applications for funding. The first application was through the Western States WUI grant process that is

administered through CDF. The proposal was for \$98,400. An additional funding mechanism will be \$60,000 of Title III funds from the El Dorado Fire Safe Council. These funds are utilized to staff the project with administrative personnel and support.

Project Administrator or Manager

El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Battalion 1

Project activities will be covered under the State VMP Program

Cooperators / Collaborators

CDF

El Dorado Hills Fire Department
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
California Department of Parks and Recreation
El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

2. Independence Fuel Break

Federal and state defensible fuels zone/shaded fuel break project for the protection of the Pollock Pines area in the vicinity of Forbay Road. This project is a collaborative effort to treat federal lands while creating an opportunity to treat private lands that are isolated between the Federal lands. The El Dorado National Forest has been conducting thinning and prescribed fire operations on the Independence Fuel Break as a high priority for their new fuels management strategy. CDF was approached by the USFS to assist in project implementation for the private lands that lie within the federal lands project. The federal agencies are unable to directly conduct work on private lands; however, they are able to provide funding sources.

CDF chose to utilize the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) for project implementation. CFIP provides the statutory framework to conduct the type of work required to fulfill the project objectives and has an excellent mechanism to manage the administration of the project work. CFIP is currently an unfunded program; however, there is the ability to move Federal grant funds through the CFIP program.

The Unit has been awarded two National Fire Plan Grants to fund project work through the use of the California Forestry Improvement Program (CFIP). The grants total \$212,000, which is administered through the already in place CFIP mechanism. A retired CDF forester funded by the grant is conducting on the ground coordination for the project.

Project Administrator or Manager

Battalion 1 CDF VMP

Cooperators / Collaborators

USFS CDF

Non-Industrial Private Landowners

Planning & Past projects

1. Sly Park Fire Safe Project II

This project is primarily a fuels treatment project that prescribes the creation of a Defensible Fuels Zone/shaded fuel break between Park Creek Road and Sly Park Reservoir with the utilization of broadcast burning as well as hand treatment by CDF fire crews. This project provides a fuel break for the surrounding communities and natural resources around Sly Park Reservoir. Landowners, situated along the border of the project, will be allowed to participate in the Sly Park Fire Safe Project II by including their residential parcels in the fuel break. This project went into the maintenance phase starting the fall of 2004.

This fuel break project is considered complete however; continued maintenance is required to ensure the project remains in tact. Maintenance will require some minor fire crew work and understory burning.

Project Administrator or Manager

CDF Battalion 1

Cooperators / Collaborators

Sly Park Recreation Area El Dorado Irrigation District Non-Industrial Private Landowners USFS SPI CDF

Battalion 2

The Battalion 2 lies primarily on the Georgetown Divide in northern El Dorado County. The total area off the battalion is 128,454 acres ranging from 19% timber, 54% brush, and 27% oak woodland/grass.

As with all of the Central Sierra, the Battalion has a significant urban interface/intermix problem. The majority of the construction took place prior to current defensible space standards. This problem was confirmed with the loss of fourteen homes in the 1994 Kelsey fire.

The battalion consists of two CDF Schedule B stations and one un-staffed lookout. Both Station 50 and Station 70 are two engine stations and a shop facility is maintained at station 70. Additionally, Growlersburg Conservation Camp lies within the battalion.

Five local agency fire districts lie, at least partially, within the battalion. These fire districts are; Garden Valley, Georgetown, Mosquito, Rescue, and El Dorado County Fire. A close working relationship is maintained with each district as well as with the U. S. Forest Service, Georgetown Ranger District.

Current Projects

1. Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safe Project

The Auburn Lake Trails subdivision is situated at the rim of the American River canyon at the edge of the lake that would have been formed by the Auburn Dam. Exclusion of fire and the heavy public use below the subdivision create a very hazardous condition with respect to the potential for ignition. The topography, fuels, and significant numbers of homes create a combination of factors that will cause significant resource damage as well as a major risk to life safety within the community.

The primary strategy is to establish defensible fuels zones around and within the subdivision. CDF fire crews will conduct VMP project work on federal lands adjoining the subdivision. Private land owners will be asked to participate in the VMP so fuels reduction will continue on the private lands between homes and the federal lands project area. The property owner's association retains control of all the common area within the subdivision and is the primary partner with the Auburn Lake Trails VMP. Currently CDF has treated approximately 100 acres of federal and private lands.

The Unit was awarded a \$22,000 planning grant for a comprehensive fire

safe plan, biomass utilization plan, and community emergency evacuation plan. The fire safe plan is complete and has been distributed to the community of Auburn Lake Trails.

Project Administrator or Manager

Battalion 2 CDF VMP

Cooperators / Collaborators

CDF AEU and NEU
ALT Firesafe Council and ALT Homeowners Association
California Department of Parks and Recreation
United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

Planning & Past projects

Greater Georgetown Divide Fire Safe Project

Greater Georgetown Divide Fire Safe Project is a coordinated and comprehensive L.E.-38 inspections program targeting areas with recent fire history and potential for loss. This program will utilize a Limited Term FAE and 3 Seasonal Firefighters to inspect homes and educate homeowners within the high hazard communities.

Project Administrator

Battalion 2

Cooperators / Collaborators

CDF

Local Government Fire Departments El Dorado County Fire Safe Councils Community

Battalion 3

Battalion 3 is 185,062 acres encompassing two counties Amador, and El Dorado. The fuels, in the Battalion range from approximately 45% timber, 48% brush, and 7% oak woodland/grass.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada's of California, the Battalion contains a significant wildland interface fire problem. There exists several large, and well populated, subdivisions which are at risk for a catastrophic fire occurrence. As a result of public awareness efforts by Battalion staff a heightened awareness of the citizens of Amador County now exists, with regards to the wildland fire potential

The battalion consists of two CDF Schedule B stations, one un-staffed lookout, State forest, and CYA Camp. Station 80, located in Pine Grove and Station 10 located 10 miles east of the community of Pioneer. During the fire season, two engines are operated out of the Station 80. Station 10 is kept open year-round, as an "Amador station" with one engine. Also during the declared fire season, the El Dorado National Forest (Amador District) operates a fully-staffed engine out of the Dew Drop Station. In addition Mt. Zion State Forest (160 acres) and Pine Grove CYA Camp is located in Pine Grove.

There are two local Volunteer Fire Departments (AFPD and Lockwood) that provide structure protection and emergency medical services for the area. The close working relationship between local government resources and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection provides competent and reliable assistance on all initial attack wildland fires in Amador County.

Current Projects

1. Pine Acres Fire Safe Project 2

The Pine Acres Fire Safe Project is an attempt to establish a defensible fuel zone between the community of Pine Acres and the Mokelumne River Canyon. All of the fuels reduction work is being conducted by CDF fire crews on private property bordering the subdivision and on the Mt. Zion State Forest.

A WUI grant in the amount of \$85,000 is currently the funding source for this project.

The Unit was awarded a \$22,000 planning grant for a comprehensive fire safe plan, biomass utilization plan, and community emergency evacuation

plan. CDF contracted with a consultant to complete the work. The project is complete and the fire safe plans, as well as the other existing documents, have been distributed to the community of Pine Acres.

Project Administrator or Manager

Battalion 3 CDF VMP

Cooperators / Collaborators

CDF
BLM
Amador County Fire Safe Council
Local landowners

2. Omo Ranch Fuel Break

Omo Ranch Fuel Break is a defensible fuel zone/shaded fuel break along Omo Ranch Road in Amador and El Dorado Counties. The project begins at Highway 88 and progresses west to Road E16 near Mt. Aukum. The primary purpose of the project is to establish a defensible fuel break for fire fighting operations and to protect the interface communities of the area. The community of Omo Ranch is a small and relatively isolated community in southern El Dorado County.

CDF, Sierra Pacific Industries, and the USFS have completed approximately one third of the project. Work on the middle third of the zone started in 2004. All work to be completed by CDF is covered by a mitigated negative declaration and a VMP contract. All work on the National Forest lands was completed by the USFS.

Funding for this project has traditionally been through the Unit's Prefire Program as a standard Vegetation Management Project. AEU was awarded \$60,000 of Title III funding by the EI Dorado County Fire Safe Council to conduct work on the middle third of the project, especially around the Indian Diggin's Elementary School in the town of Omo Ranch. AEU will utilize Proposition 40 watershed protection funding to continue project work into the near future.

Project Administrator or Manager

Battalion 3 CDF VMP

Cooperators / Collaborators

CDF USFS El Dorado County Fire Safe Council Sierra Pacific Industries Local landowners

3. Shake Ridge/Antelope Fuel Break

The primary objective of the project was to establish defensible fuel zones around the community near Amador Pines and provide assistance with fire safe clearances. The project includes prescribed fire, fire crew pre/post prescribed fire treatments, roadside clearance work, dooryard chipping, mastication, tree thinning, and enhanced LE-38 inspections. All work on this project was completed with a mitigated negative declaration and the State Vegetation Management Program.

The original project described above was funded through a \$150,000 Proposition 204 Watershed Protection Grant proposal that was awarded to CDF in 1999. The proposal was conducted over a four-year period and allowed CDF to hire a Fire Captain Grant Coordinator to manage the day-to-day operations of the project work. The fundamental foundations of this project were established during the early planning phases of the Proposition 204 period.

For the next three years, AEU will utilize Proposition 40 watershed protection funding to continue the project.

Project Administrator or ManagerCDF VMP

Cooperators / Collaborators
CDF
USFS
Sierra Pacific Industries
Amador Fire Safe Council & Local landowners

4. Last Chance Fuels Reduction Project

Federal and state defensible fuels zone/shaded fuel break project for the protection of the community of Grizzly Flats within the Cosumnes River watershed. This project is a collaborative effort to treat federal lands while creating an opportunity to also treat private lands that are isolated between the Federal lands. The El Dorado National Forest has been conducting thinning and prescribed fire operations on the Last Chance Fuel Break as a high priority for the Federal fuels management strategy. CDF was approached by the USFS to assist in project implementation for the private lands that lie within the federal lands project. The federal agencies are unable to directly conduct work on private lands; however,

they are able to provide funding sources.

CDF chose to utilize the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) for project implementation. CFIP provides the statutory framework to conduct the type of work required to fulfill the project objectives and has an excellent mechanism to manage the administration of the project work. CFIP is currently an unfunded program; however, there is the ability to move Federal grant funds through the CFIP program.

The Unit has been awarded National Fire Plan Grant funding to conduct project work through the use of the California Forestry Improvement Program (CFIP) in cooperation with small non-industrial landowners. The grant total is \$198,000, which is administered through the already in place CFIP mechanism. A retired CDF forester funded by the grant is conducting on the ground coordination for the project.

Project Administrator or Manager

Battalion 1 CDF VMP

Cooperators / Collaborators

USFS CDF Non-Industrial Private Landowners

Future Projects

Pine Acres Fire Safe Projects "On going"

- Develop a Community Evacuation Plan for the Pine Grove/Pine Acres area.
- Develop a Public Education Program for PRC 4291

Amador Pines Fuel Break/Fire Safe Project

- Develop a defensible fuel zone between the community of Amador Pines and the drainages west of said community.
- Develop a Community Evacuation Plan for the Amador Pines/Pioneer area.
- Develop a Public Education Program for PRC 4291

Shake Ridge/Antelope Fuel Break

 Develop a defensible fuel zone extending West on Shake Ridge towards volcano

Tiger Creek Fuel Break

 Develop a defensible fuel zone extending west from the Antelope Fuel Break to the Tiger Creek Power Plant on the Mokelumne River

Omo Ranch Fuel Break "On going"

 Continue with the expansion of the defensible fuel zone/shaded fuel break along Omo Ranch Road in Amador and El Dorado Counties beginning at Highway 88 and progressing North-West to E-16 in Mt. Aukum

Surrey Junction Fuel Break

 Develop a defensible fuel zone extending northeast from Ridge Road, beginning near Bates Road, and following the 2000-foot contour line around the Surrey Junction and Tanyard Hill residential areas to Lupe Road

Defender Grade Fuel Break

 Develop a defensible fuel zone extending South from Highway 88 at Pioneer following ridges to Highway 26 and then to Mokelumne River Canyon

Battalion 4

Battalion 4 is 367,996 acres encompassing three counties Amador, Sacramento, and Jan Joaquin. The fuels, in the Battalion range from 14% timber, 33% brush, and 49% oak woodland/grass.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada's, the Battalion contains a significant wildland interface fire problem. There exist numerous large, and well populated, subdivisions which are at risk for a catastrophic fire.

The facilities in battalion 4 consist of two CDF Schedule B stations, Station 60 with two engines and a dozer, and Station 30 with one engine. Station 60 and 30 are kept open year-round with one engine each, as "Amador plan stations."

Eleven local agency fire districts lie, at least partially, within the battalion. These fire districts are "by county":

- Amador County
 - o AFPD
 - o Jackson FD
 - o Ione FD
 - o Sutter Creek FD
- Sacramento Co.
 - Sac Metro
 - o Herald FD
 - o Wilton FD
 - o Galt FD
 - Elk Grove FD
- San Joaquin
 - o Clements FD
 - Liberty FD

Current Projects

1. HFEO Academy Training

The CDF Fire Training Academy in Ione annually conducts the Heavy Fire Equipment Operator class, which includes the use of 10-18 bulldozers of varying sizes. AEU provides the locations where the ten-day practical field training for the class is conducted. AEU identifies willing landowners that own property is strategic topographic locations and are willing to allow CDF to operate dozers. Landowners are typically livestock ranchers so there is a mutual benefit through range improvement for the landowners

while providing strategic fuels reduction. All of the dozer work is planned to be completed in the spring and the resulting piles are burned in the fall. Ranchers are strongly encouraged to artificially seed following the treatment of the vegetation.

Project Administrator or Manager CDF AEU CDF Academy

Cooperators / Collaborators
Private Land Owners

Future & Past Projects

1. Sutter Highlands Fire Safe Project

With the cooperation and support of the Sutter Highland homeowners and the Amador Resource Conservation District, CDF was able to conducted roadside fuels reduction for the Sutter Highlands community above Sutter Creek. A significant number of homeowners participated in the VMP by allowing CDF fire crews to clear hazardous fuels around homes and roadways.

The funding for this project was originally secured from a Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$130,000. Two years of work has been completed and future funding has not been secured to continue the project. Prefire staff with the cooperation of the local battalion chief will continue to assess the future of this project.

Project Administrator or Manager
Battalion 4
CDF VMP

Cooperators / Collaborators CDF
Sutter Highlands homeowners

2. Cosumnes River Preserve

The Nature Conservancy is maintaining vernal pool habitat with the utilization of prescribed fire. CDF with the participation of the Nature Conservancy, Sacramento City Fire Department, and Sacramento Metro Fire utilize this VMP project as a pre fire season live fire training exercise. The project consists of approximately 500 acres of vernal pool and oak woodlands burning every year. Battalion and Prefire staff are currently working towards a long-term management plan for the entire 12,000-acre project area. This project allows CDF and other fire agencies to do live fire training within a controlled environment. With this type of training fire agencies, increase their skills in wildland fire suppression.

Project Administrator or Manager

Battalion 3
Battalion 6 "Training"
CDF VMP

Cooperators / Collaborators

The Nature Conservancy Sacramento County Fire Departments Private Land Owners CDF

Battalion 5 Cameron Park Fire Department

The most common complaint received by the Cameron Park Fire Department from the public is about their concern for protection from a wildfire emergency. An analysis of emergency incidents in the local area supports the public perception that the greatest threat to the community may be from a destructive wildfire similar in nature to the fire that occurred in the Oakland Hills in 1990. The Oakland Hills fire burned less than 3 square miles (1600 acres) and destroyed 2,900 homes in one day.

The Cameron Park Fire Department in Cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection proposed to implement a project in the Community of Cameron Park with a long-term goal of establishing a "Fire Safe" community. The enormous scope of the problem necessitates that it be approached by a coalition of public and private collaborators including but not limited to:

- Fire Department officials
- El Dorado County government and agency officials
- Community Services District officials
- Utility company representatives
- Environmental groups
- Insurance industry representatives
- Real estate industry representatives
- Homeowners associations
- Large land owners
- General public

The project must be comprehensive enough to address the entire wildland-urban interface problem in the district from small strips of flammable vegetation along roadside easements, to large tracts of undeveloped brush covered lands. No timeframes have yet been established for the completion of this project. Progress will be dependant upon the cooperation and initiative of the collaborators, and the success in securing project funding through grants or other sources. Three critical element areas have been identified for the project.

Project Elements

Planning

- Cameron Park Fire Safe Bureau
- Cameron Park Fire Safe Council
- Fire Safe Development Plans PRC 4290
- Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan
- Community Hazard and Risk Assessment

Fuel Reduction:

- Residential Lot Clearing Requirements PRC 4291
- Vacant Lot Clearing Requirements H&S 14875 14922
- Chipper Program
- Vegetation Management Program
- Fire Resistive Planting Program
- Curbside Landscaping

Public Education:

- Volunteers in Prevention
- Public Displays
- Demonstration Lots
- Web Page
- Public Recognition
- Hazard Awareness

Planning Element Description

Cameron Park Fire Safe Bureau: The Cameron Park Fire Department will establish a Fire Safe Bureau to coordinate the Districts' efforts towards minimizing costs and losses associated with wildfire emergencies. The Fire Safe Bureau will be located at Cameron Park Fire Station 88. All of the personnel permanently assigned to Station 88 will be members of the Fire Safe Bureau. The Fire Safe Bureau will work with the Cameron Park Fire Safe Council to implement the Cameron Park Fire Safe Project. Establishing a Fire Safe Bureau will re-focus the efforts and priorities of 25% of the fire department personnel and resources directly on the wildland-urban interface problem.

Cameron Park Fire Safe Council: A fire safe council will be established in the community to build a partnership between the fire department and the community for addressing the local wildfire hazard. The fire safe council will be a coalition of public and private sector collaborators including community leaders, residents, business persons, government agencies, the fire department, and other groups and associations committed to developing a "Fire Safe" community in Cameron Park. The Fire Safe Council will meet monthly. One member of the Cameron Park Fire Safe Council will represent the community at the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. An active Fire Safe council will be one of the critical elements for project success.

Fire Safe Development Plans (PRC 4290): A Fire Safe Plan will be prepared and submitted with project applications for new construction and development in the community. The Fire Safe Plan will provide for emergency vehicle access and perimeter wildfire protection measures.

Elements of the fire safe plan include standards for road and street networks, water supply standards, building construction, fuel modification, and defensible space.

Cameron Park Wildfire Preplan: A preplan for managing wildfire emergencies in and around the community will be developed. The preplan will incorporate information developed in the Fire Safe Plan to improve chances for initial attack success in the event of a wildfire emergency. Fuel breaks, water supplies, evacuation routes, staging areas, resource needs, strategies and tactics, etc. will be developed for a variety of wildfire scenarios. The pre-plan will be distributed to local firefighters for training and made available to the public for educational purposes.

Community Hazard and Risk Assessment: A hazard and risk assessment will be done for the entire community. The hazard and risk assessment will quantify the threat to persons and property in the community from a wildfire emergency. Factors such as fuel, topography, land use, and types of building construction will be considered. The hazard and risk assessment will be a critical planning tool for directing the efforts of the Fire Safe Bureau.

Fuel Reduction Element Description

Residential Lot Clearing Requirements (PRC 4291): Based on the community hazard and risk assessment, residents will be required to establish defensible space around the structures on their lots, under the authority of Public Resource Code § 4291. PRC 4291 requires removal of flammable vegetation for a minimum of 30 feet, and up to 100, feet around structures. Fire department personnel and volunteers will make initial inspections. Failure to comply may result in a misdemeanor citation.

Vacant Lot Clearing Requirements (H&S 14875 – 14922): Based on the community hazard and risk assessment, vacant lots will be required to remove flammable vegetation under the authority of the fire district's weed abatement ordinance. The weed abatement ordinance was established in 1999, by the Board of Directors, under the authority of Health and Safety Code § 14875. Fire department personnel and volunteers will make initial inspections. Failure to comply may result in the fire department contracting for the abatement work and a lien on the property.

Chipper Program: The district will seek funds to establish a chipper program to support the residential and vacant lot clearing efforts. A chipper program will provide a cost effective alternative and incentive for property owners to cooperate with the district's fuel reduction efforts. A commercial chipper and tow vehicle will be required. Chips can be scattered in place on the property owner's lot, stored in a central location

for redistribution, or used as a groundcover in road easements or other areas.

Vegetation Management Program (VMP): Large lots and open tracts of land threatening many structures may qualify for the VMP administered by CDF. A contract between the property owners and CDF authorizes the State to perform fuel reduction work through a cost sharing agreement. Qualification and priorities for utilizing a VMP program will be based on the community hazard and risk assessment.

Fire Resistive Plants: Ornamental trees, shrubs, and groundcovers that are fire resistive and perform well in the local soil and weather conditions will be identified. Property owners will be encouraged to replace native flammable vegetation with fire resistive ornamental plants. Sponsoring nurseries will be sought to offer discounted plants for this program. Cost matching grant funds will be sought to further reduce the costs to the property owner.

Curbside Landscaping: The District will work with the County Department of Transportation to identify guidelines for property owners desiring to landscape road easements fronting their properties.

Public Education Element Description

Volunteers in Prevention (VIP): The District will establish Volunteers in Prevention program to assist with administration of the Cameron Park Fire Safe Project and with public education. The VIP program is administered by CDF. VIP's may be utilized for a variety of fire prevention activities including office support, inspections, and public education programs.

Demonstration Lots: Demonstration Lots will be established around the district featuring two types of fire safe landscaping. One type will demonstrate how to thin and prune native vegetation (primarily oak woodland) to reduce its fire danger potential. The other type will include fire resistive ornamental plants that can be used to replace or enhance native plant species.

Public Displays: Public education materials will be displayed at community events attended by the fire department and/or the Fire Safe Council.

Web Page: The District's web page will be updated to provide a complete overview of the Cameron Park Fire Safe Project.

Public Recognition: Streets and neighborhoods in the District will be recognized for achieving "Fire Safe" status. "Fire Safe" status will be

granted when the street or neighborhood meets guidelines for fire safety established by the Cameron Park Fire Safe Bureau. Recognition may be in the form of local press releases, listing on the district's web page, and/or neighborhood or street signs.

Hazard Awareness and Prevention: Public education materials will be developed to heighten the awareness of the community towards the dangers of a wildfire emergency, and to educate the public on the efforts to reduce the hazard. Materials may include maps and information of the fire history in the local area; history of catastrophic wildfires in the state; methods for fuel reduction and fire resistive landscaping; methods for creating defensible space around structures; methods for preventing the ignition of a wildland fire; and/or a mock newscast of a catastrophic wildfire in the community to present the reality of the danger.